MS Am 288.4

Spanktown in the Jerseys
Decr 23d 1776

Though I wrote twice so lately, yet I can't think of Letting slip any opportunity of writing to my Dearest Friend, was it only to let him know that I am in good health however I think at present I can give you some intelligence much more material than any thing I can say of myself.

You must know then that ~~the~~ famous General Lee is taken prisoner, & what will I am sure add to the pleasure you will receive at this news, he was taken by our Friend Colonel Harcourt, the manner in which he was taken does Harcourt Infinite honour, I will relate it as well as I can. he was sent out about eight Days ago towards Morris Town to reconnoitre Morris County, on the road at a turning

he met a man on horseback who when
he saw the Dragoons, wished to avoid them
Harcourt seeing his confusion, gallopd
up to him, swore he was a Rebel, & that
he would secure him, the Man in his fright
acknowledged himself to be one of their
Light horse & that he was sent with
dispatches by General Lee to General Sulivan
Harcourt asked him where General Lee was
& told him he would give him fifty Guineas
if he would conduct him to the place the
Man refused the money but said that if
Col. Harcourt would get him his pardon,
he would conduct him so that he might
take Lee. the Bargain was soon made &
the Man immediatly conducted him to a
Tavern at Baskinridge, where he said
he believed Lee was then at Dinner, the
Dragoons immediatly surrounded the house,

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By this time Lee's guard, which consisted
of about twenty Riffle men took the ala
& began to fire from the house upon the Dragoons, but
luckily the first shot that was fired
by the Dragoons took place & killed the
man who seemed to be their head, which dis-
heartened them so much, that they fired only
at Random afterwards, Harcourt dismounted
with Lt. Leigh of that Regt. & two Dragoons
& rushed into the Room where Lee was
at Dinner with two French Officers (one
of them his aid de Camp the other calls
himself Lt. Colonel de la Cavallerie a la suite de l'Armée
Francoise.) & seized him fast by the Collar,
the aid de Camp attempted to resist,
& fired his Pistol, upon which Lt. Leigh
of Burgoynes, very cooly stepped up & shot him
through the heart. they then obliged Lee

to run on foot a side of Harcourts horse,
who held him by the Collar for near three mile,
till they were safe & could press him a
horse, & so they brought him off to the army.
about a Qr. of a Mile from the house where he
was taken, his whole army consisting of about
eight thousand men & 15 pieces of Cannon
were encamped. Colonel Harcourt had but forty
men with him. what a fine feather it will be
in his cap.

We have now marched through the whole
Jersies & have a line of communication. Don
from Trentown on the River Delaware to
New York, I think this will be allowed
to be a glorious campaign. I am now in
winter Quarters at a little Village in the
Jersies called Spanktown (it lies between
Amboy & Elizabeth town) where I command
a party of Dragoons. after having been in

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Winter Quarters at New York for about a fortnight & just got comfortably settled, to be removed to this place, where I have not a soul to speak to but Quakers, who thou & thee me from morning till night, you will allow is not la plus agreable chose du monde. however one must do as well as we can. There is a report here I don't know whether true or not that the People of Connecticut have laid down their arms, if this is the case, l'Affaire finira bientot.

I heartily congratulate you my Dear Sister on the news I hear from my Brother, that you are to get quit of that endroit si agreable I mean Rathbone & my going to Bengal in the room of Harris, who I suppose goes

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to Petersburgh. Prenez garde a vous, mon ami; dont be lead astray by the Berlin Ladies, tho' I dont think there is much danger as I scarce saw a pretty woman of fashion the whole time I was there, the prettyest, I think was a woman who was something to Principe Henry, I think her name was Marschalle. I think you run some danger with Principe Frederick of Brunswick, but take care le Mari est Diablement Jaloux. There was a French Actress there a Mad:elle Jolie who really deserv'd the name but she was fiere comme tous les Diables.

My Best respects to your Family in general & love to Jebby. adieu my Dearest Friend believe me in whatever situation I may be placed that I shall ever remain with the greatest truth of Affection unalterably yours

Thos. Stanley

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